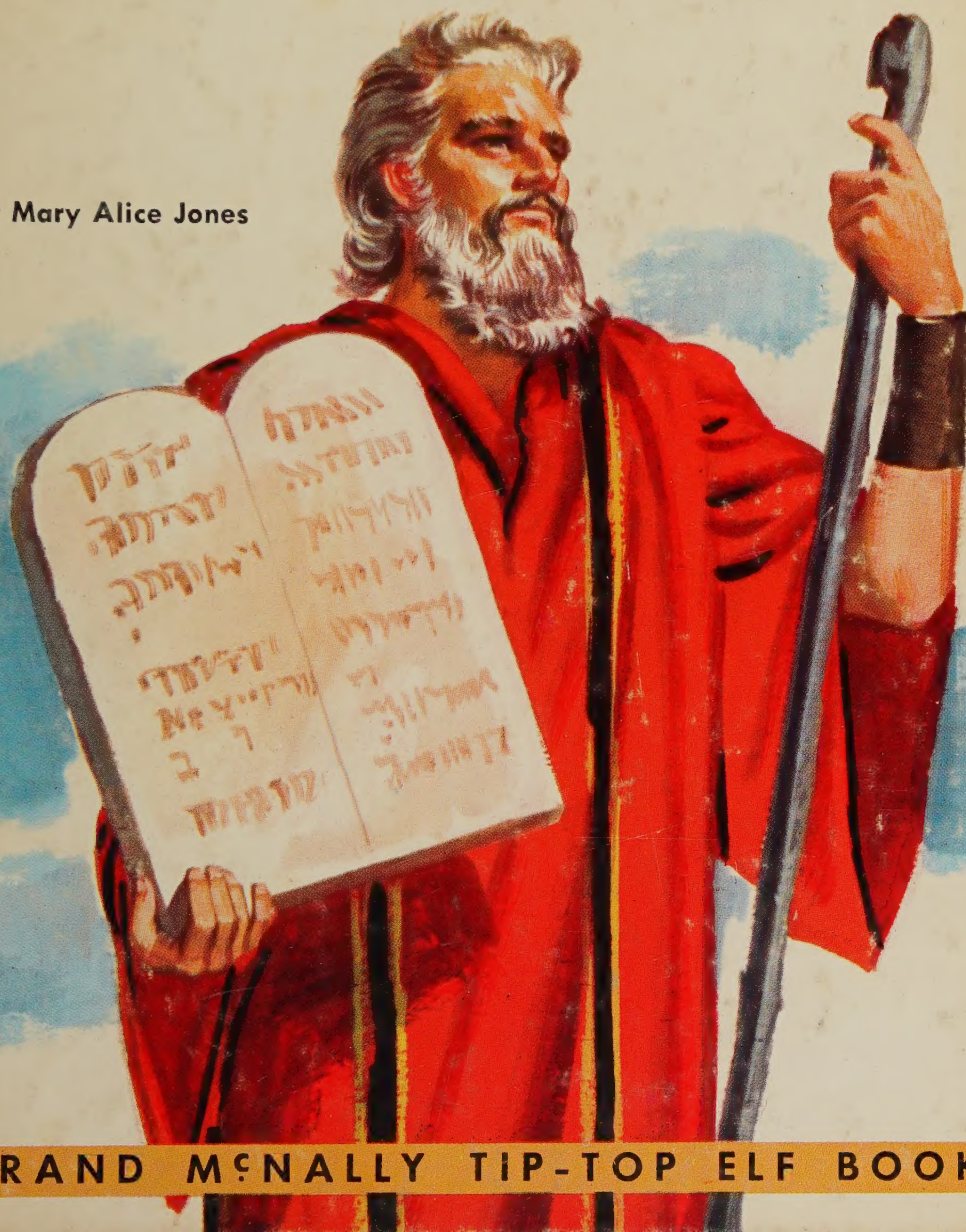


The TEN COMMANDMENTS for Children

Edited by Mary Alice Jones



A RAND McNALLY TIP-TOP ELF BOOK

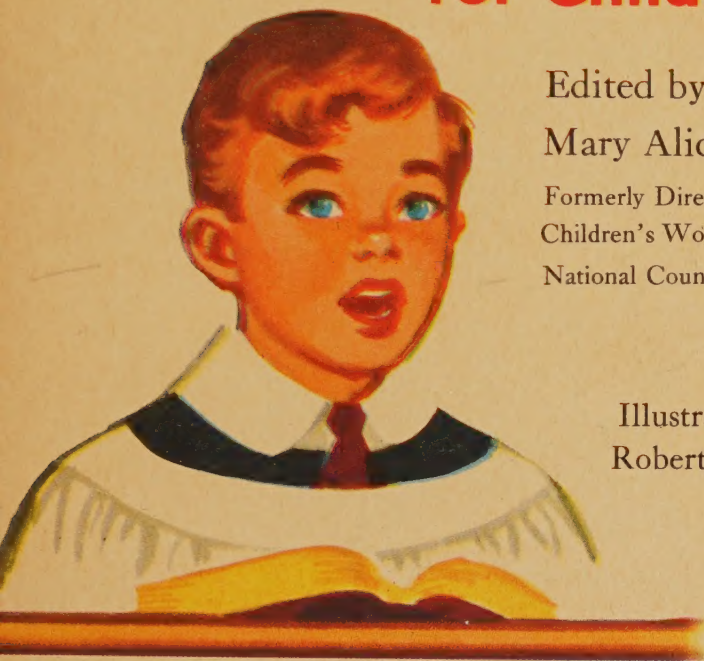
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The Ten Commandments represent an essential part of the heritage of children in the Judaeo-Christian tradition. It is hoped that this book will help parents to introduce their children to this great heritage.

— *Mary Alice Jones*

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The TEN COMMANDMENTS for Children



Edited by
Mary Alice Jones
Formerly Director of
Children's Work
National Council of Churches

Illustrated by
Robert Bonfils

RAND MCNALLY & COMPANY · Chicago

Established 1856

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Thou shalt have
no other gods
before me.

Exodus 20:1-3

GOD IS VERY GREAT and very good.

Men and women and boys and girls who think of God know that they must not put what they want before what God wants. They know that they must want to do what God wants them to do. They must put nothing before that.

For God is very great and very good.



Thou shalt not
make unto thee
any graven image.

Exodus 20:4-5

IN OLDEN TIMES men and women sometimes made images of wood and stone and thought these images could help them if they prayed to them. But God was working in the world. By and by the people listened when God spoke to them. By and by they learned that only God could hear them.

We know that only God can hear us when we pray. We know, too, that God always does hear us and helps us.



Thou shalt not take
the name of the Lord
thy God in vain.

Exodus 20:7

THE GREAT GOD, the Creator of the heavens and the earth, is the holy one. Men do not speak of him carelessly. They speak of him reverently. They speak of him lovingly. For God is very great, and God is very good. The heavens declare his glory, and all the inhabitants of the earth stand in awe of him. He makes light to shine out of darkness and tells the number of the stars. He heals the broken-hearted and is mindful of all his children. He is *God*. His name is holy.



Remember
the sabbath day,
to keep it holy.

Exodus 20:8-10

IN THE PLAN OF GOD for man's happiness is a place for quiet and rest and worship. To help God's children think of him and talk with him, there is a special day. In the Bible it is called the sabbath. On this day men and women do not go to work. Boys and girls do not go to school. They go to church to sing and pray and think together of God's plan for them and for all men everywhere.



honor thy father and thy mother.

Exodus 20:12

IN THE FAMILY mothers and fathers help their children in many, many ways, long before the children can understand about it or can say, "Thank you." As the children grow older, they do many things for their fathers and mothers. Mothers and fathers and boys and girls help one another, not because they must, but because they love one another. Boys and girls remember to do what their parents ask them to do because they know their parents want what is best for their children. Though their parents sometimes make mistakes, boys and girls know that their parents are wiser than they are. And so they show respect to their parents and trust them.



Thou shalt not kill.

Exodus 20:13

GOD ONLY IS GREAT ENOUGH to make life. No man can make even the tiniest seed or blade of grass or flying bird. But God, the Creator, gives life to all creatures. "It is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves." God tells his children that life is very precious. Because he has given us life, it is God's plan that each one of his children should live happily, without fear that his neighbor will take away his life. It is God's plan that each one of his children should help take care of the life of all his other children. Life is the gift of God. It is sacred.



Thou shalt not commit adultery.

Exodus 20:14

IT IS THE PLAN OF GOD that his children live in families. It is his plan that a man and a woman should love one another and make a home together and rear children. The father and mother and children have other friends, whom they like and enjoy. But the members of the family care for one another more than for any other friends. The happiness of each member of the family is important to every other member of the family. Fathers and mothers who truly love one another and truly love their children are God's best helpers. For they are carrying out God's plan that a man and a woman love each other and rear children. This is God's plan for a happy world.



Thou shalt not steal.

Exodus 20:15

BECAUSE GOD LOVES ALL his children, he wants his children to share with one another. If one is hungry or cold, it is God's plan that someone else should help him have clothes and a house to live in and food to eat. If one keeps more than his share, he is not carrying out God's plan. Also, if one takes away what belongs to someone else, he is breaking God's law. It is right that any man or woman or boy or girl who really needs something should *ask* for it. But it is wrong for any person to *take* what he wants. To refuse to share with someone who is in need, and to take what is not one's own—both make people unhappy.

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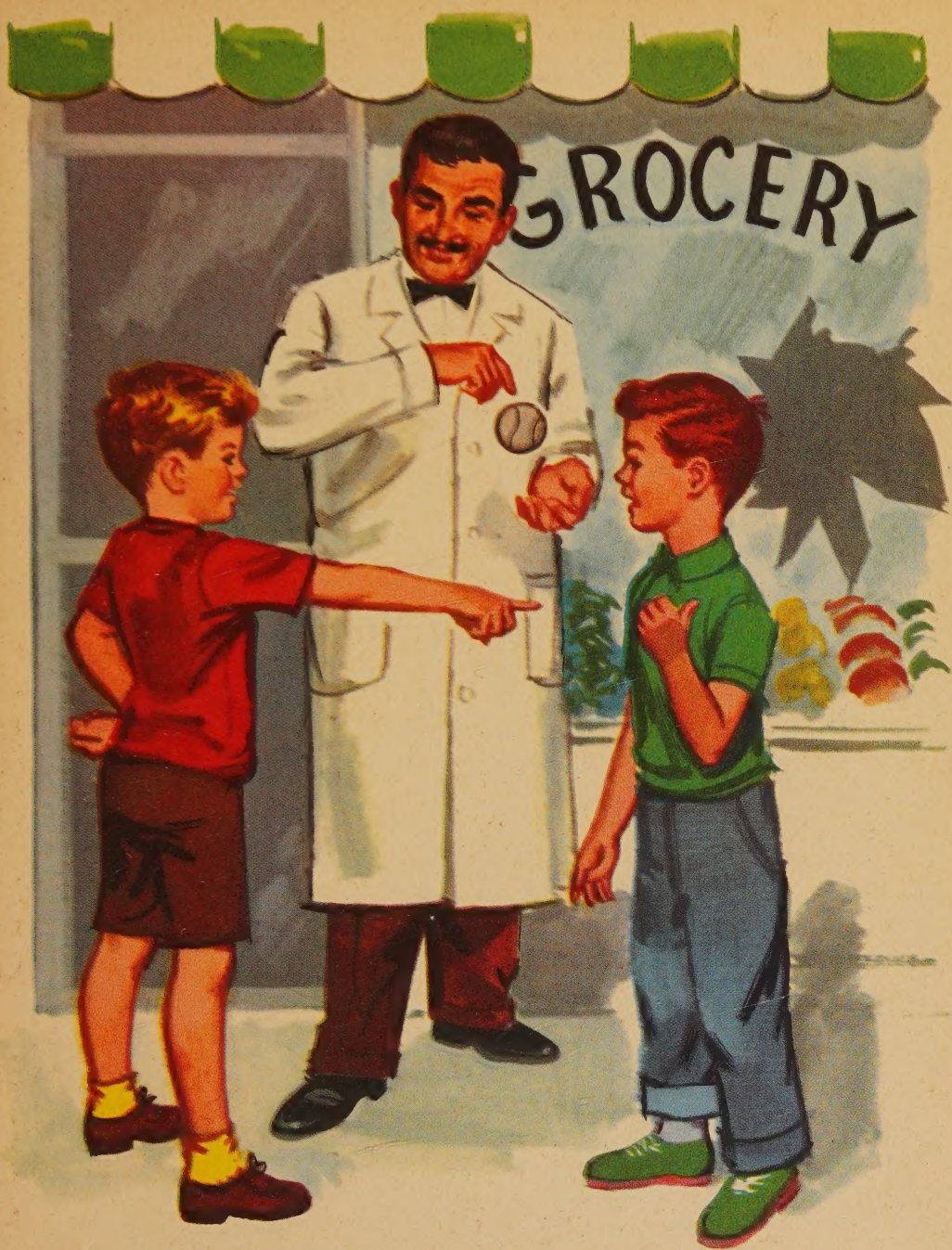


Thou shalt not
bear false witness
against thy neighbor.

Exodus 20:16

TO TELL the *good* one knows about someone else may help him. To tell of something bad which the person has done may hurt him. But to say he has done something bad which he has not really done is very sure to hurt him.

Often it is easy to blame someone else for an accident. Sometimes it is easy, even, to blame someone else for one's own carelessness. And once in a while there is a boy or girl who does something he knows is wrong. When harm comes from it, he says someone else did it. That, God tells us, is sinful.



Thou shalt not covet.

Exodus 20:17

IT IS EASY TO WANT something which someone else has. But God tells us that it does not make us happy to think about what someone else has and to wish it were ours. It is better to think of the good things we have and to enjoy them and share them with others. If we really need something more than we have, we may ask God to help us to work and to plan wisely. For God loves us and knows all the things we have need of.





MARY ALICE JONES is one of the best known and most highly regarded authorities in the field of religious education for children. A keen student of child psychology, she knows how to present the difficult subjects of God, Jesus, and the Bible so they have a vital meaning to the child, based on his own interest and experience. These outstanding beginning religious books were either written by or are recommended by Miss Jones.

DR. MARY ALICE JONES: B.A., University of Texas; M.A., Northwestern University; Ph.D., Yale University Divinity School; University of Edinburgh, Scotland.

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